



NEWS RELEASE

NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (NEMA) – 1300 MILITARY ROAD – LINCOLN, NE 68508-1090

Joint Information Center (JIC)

Flood Hotline: (855) 211-2453 or (855) 211-2454 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., daily

July 14, 2011, 2:30 p.m. CDT

CONTACT: (402) 471-2478 jodie.fawl@nebraska.gov

Nebraska JIC Daily Update

Flood Hotline Hours Reduced

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency will reduce the hours and number of lines for its flood hotline beginning **Saturday, July 16**. The number of calls to the flood hotline has declined and as a result the hotline will no longer be open on weekends. **Weekday hours, beginning July 18, will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.** with only one phone line, **(855) 211-2453**. Questions about flooding can be submitted online at: <http://www.nema.ne.gov/administration/contact.html> and flood and storm damage reports can be submitted at: <http://www.nema.ne.gov/newsroom/home-damage-contact.html>.

UPDATED National Guard

There are 117 Nebraska National Guard Soldiers and Airmen providing direct support of the flooding emergency. The Nebraska National Guard is conducting 24-hour levee monitoring missions in support of local and county emergency management officials in South Sioux City, Omaha, the Papio-Missouri River NRD and in Nemaha County. The National Guard is assisting Cass County officials in levee monitoring, logistical support and the protection of critical infrastructure, and is conducting aerial monitoring of Missouri River levees. Other Soldiers are on alert in Lincoln to conduct aerial sandbagging operations in the event that it's needed.

No Changes Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) Recommended alternate routes:

To and from Kansas: use **Highway 77** out of Lincoln and **Highway 81** out of York.

Across Nebraska: I-80 is expected to remain safe and dry route throughout the flooding months.

Strongly suggested route: If you are west of York on I-80 and intend to travel north on I-29 at Council Bluffs, consider taking **Highway 81** north at York to I-90 in South Dakota thus avoiding detour traffic in Iowa.

Avoid Highway 75 because of existing construction projects, lane closures and flood mitigation operations.

Avoid Highway 77 north of Lincoln because of delays due to bridge construction near Fremont.

No Changes Road Closures Call 511 or check online at www.roads.ne.gov/flood/ or www.511.nebraska.gov before traveling.

Highway 2 is closed from Nebraska City east into Iowa due to water covering the road on the Iowa side.

Highway 12 is closed east of Niobrara from the east edge of Niobrara to the Santee Spur. A west section of **Highway 12** is also closed from Verdel to approximately three miles west of Niobrara.

Highway 14/37 is closed from the junction with **Highway 12** to the Nebraska-South Dakota border (Standing Bear Bridge). **Highway 14** is open going south from the junction of **Highway 12**.

Highway 175 at the Decatur Missouri River Crossing to Iowa is closed due to erosion of the bridge embankment on the Iowa side. Officials will evaluate the erosion and determine if mitigation work can be done to enable the bridge to reopen.

Highway 136 is closed from Brownville east into Missouri due to water topping a levee on the Missouri side.

Highway 159 is closed from Rulo as it runs east into Missouri. Closure is due to levee break on the Missouri side of Big Lake which resulted in water over the road on the Missouri side.

I-680 into Iowa is closed due to I-680 in Iowa being covered by flood waters.

UPDATED River Levels — National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service as of today:

Platte River

Henry – 4.91 feet, flood stage is 5.5 feet
Mitchell – 6.44 feet, flood stage is 7.5 feet
Minatare – 5.32 feet, flood stage is 7.5 feet
Bridgeport – 6.84 feet, flood stage is 9.5 feet
Lisco – 3.04 feet, flood stage is 4 feet
Lewellen – 7.66 feet, flood stage is 7.5 feet
North Platte – 6.63 feet, flood stage is 6 feet
Brady – 6.92 feet, flood stage is 7.5 feet

Cozad – 5.19 feet, flood stage is 6.5 feet
Overton – 5.22 feet, flood stage is 7 feet
Kearney – 5.11 feet, flood stage is 6 feet
Grand Island – 5.26 feet, flood stage is 6.5 feet
Duncan – 5.47 feet, flood stage is 8 feet
North Bend – 4.5 feet, flood stage is 8 feet
Leshara – 6.0 feet, flood stage is 8 feet
Ashland – 16.78 feet, flood stage is 20 feet
Louisville – 5.29 feet, flood stage is 9 feet

Missouri River

Verdel – 28.96 feet, flood stage is 24 feet
Niobrara – 26.61 feet, flood stage is 21 feet,
South Sioux City – 34.43 feet, flood stage is 30 feet
Decatur – 39.85 feet, flood stage is 35 feet
Blair – 31.5 feet, flood stage is 26.5 feet

Omaha – 34.74 feet, flood stage is 29 feet
Plattsmouth – 34.76 feet, flood stage is 26 feet
Nebraska City – 24.43 feet, flood stage is 18 feet
Brownville – 39.94 feet, flood stage is 33 feet
Rulo – 24.7 feet, flood stage is 17 feet



[List of County Emergency Managers](#)

[List of Nebraska Local Health Departments](#)

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